

*Celebration of Life*



*Charles L. Whigham*

1921 — 1993

*Thursday, November 11, 1993*

11:00 A.M.

*Metropolitan Baptist Church*

142 Springfield Avenue

Newark, New Jersey



## *My Daddy*

My daddy was a special dad, he was a strong man, not in stature but in his heart.

Daddy was a do-er, he had foresight, wisdom and incredible knowledge and he did not mind sharing these things.

He was a provider and a family man, who loved his wife and children. He often spoke about death (a common topic in our family) but he was never afraid, for he loved the Lord and his fellow man.

Daddy was a good man, who I not only loved but respected as father and my friend.

Loving daddy was easy, for he only wanted the best for us, and he worked long and hard to give us these things.

I loved you daddy so very very much, and daddy you will always be with me. I knew you were weary and tired and needed some undisturbed rest, so sleep on my daddy and get that long over due rest. I will always love you, but God knew best.

Say hello to Grandma . . . . I'll see you in the morning.

*Carolyn*

## *Gramps*

Gramps, you meant so much to all of us. You were a father, grandfather - but more so our friend.

It was most important to all of us to please you and you made us feel like we did. We know that you are gone now, out of all the pain and we are happy for you, but we miss you so.

I know you are looking down saying "don't cry for me" but it is hard, but you taught us to be strong and to love each other, but mostly we all promised to take care of "GAGA" and that is a promise we all will keep. So rest on Gramps and go fast to sleep, till that great day when we all will meet.

## *The Grandchildren*

Chuckie, David, Tanya, Steve and Kara

## *Obituary*

### CHARLES L. WHIGHAM

Charles L. Whigham was born on February 27, 1921 in Sparta, Georgia to the late Susie Laughlin Whigham and the late Albert Whigham, Sr. He was a life long resident of the city of Newark. He attended Robert Treat School and was a graduate of South Side High School (Malcolm X Shabazz). He graduated from the Renouard School of Embalming in New York City, New York in 1944.

In 1943 he married his high school sweetheart, Marie Foster and to this union two children were born, Lemar C. and Carolyn M. Whigham.

In 1946, Charles L. Whigham founded the Whigham Funeral Home located at 580 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Newark, New Jersey where he served as president and manager until his retirement in January, 1991.

In 1973, Charles L. Whigham organized and founded City National Bank of New Jersey, the state's only minority owned and controlled National Bank. He served as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer for seventeen years until his retirement in January, 1990.

Charles L. Whigham was an affiliate of various business and professional organizations which includes the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce, Renaissance Newark Inc., City of Newark Fiscal Advisory Board, and Newark Economic Development Corporation. Furthermore, he is a trustee of many organizations, including the foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry, and the New Jersey Council of Churches. He was also a member of the 100 Black Men, The Frontiers and the NAACP.

Charles L. Whigham also served as President of the Funeral Directors Association of Essex and Union Counties. In addition he held the office of Past Master of Trinity Lodge #33, Prince Hall Affiliate, F & AM. Currently, he remains a Trustee of the Newark Boys and Girls Club and has been a member and Trustee of the Metropolitan Baptist Church for more than 50 years where he served diligently in many different capacities.

## Obituary

Charles L. Whigham has over the years received many accolades and awards, some of them being:

June 21, 1983, Mayor of Newark, Kenneth A. Gibson Proclamation "Charles L. Whigham Day".

March 12, 1988, Mayor of Newark, Sharp James Proclamation "Charles L. Whigham Day".

February 1, 1992, Essex County Executive, Thomas J. D'Alessio Proclamation "Charles L. Whigham Day".

February 1, 1992, Newark Municipal Council Street Dedication "Charles L. Whigham Square" at the corner of Green Street and Broad Street (the location of City National Bank).

Charles is survived by his devoted wife Marie. His beloved children Lemar C. and Carolyn M. Whigham; his loving brother; Albert Whigham; his caring grandchildren, Charles L. III, David A., Tanya M., Steveland L. and Kara L. Whigham; his great grandchildren, Christina, Frederick and Tiara Whigham; his daughter-in-law, Evon Whigham; his sister-in-law, Hattie Whigham and his granddaughter-in-law, Teresa Whigham. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins and Shirley Nelson Young, a godchild; Elnora Mitchell, a loyal housekeeper for more than 30 years and Thurman English, a dedicated employee for more than 30 years and other relatives and friends.

After seventy two years of life, forty-seven of which was dedicated to his community, we pause to express our love with respect and humanity.



# Order of Service

— Presiding —

REV. CHARLES L. SANDERS, Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church

REV. PRESTON DAVIS, SR., Associate Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church

REV. LAWRENCE ROBERTS, First Baptist Church of Nutley, N.J.

## ORGAN PRELUDE

## PROCESSIONAL

## SELECTION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:1-11 ..... Rev. Preston Davis

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:3-10 ..... Rev. James Aloupis  
Greek Orthodox Church

PRAYER OF COMFORT ..... Rev. Charles L. Sanders

## SELECTION

## TRIBUTES: (2 minutes only — Please)

Rev. J.R. Stanford, Zion Hill Baptist Church

Rev. J.W. Mapson, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Johnson, First Hopewell Baptist Church

Rev. Charles E. Thomas, New Hope Baptist Church

## SELECTION

## TRIBUTES:

Rev. Matthew A. Zimmerman, Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church

Honorable Mayor of Newark, Sharp James

Honorable Former Mayor of Newark, Kenneth A. Gibson

## Order of Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, RESOLUTION

AND OBITUARY . . . . . Mrs. Barbara Harris

### Reflections

DEACON WILLIE R. BURKE  
Chairman, Board of Deacons

TRUSTEE HUBERT GRAHAM  
Chairman, Board of Trustee

WOODROW GLANTON  
Trustee and Life Long Friend

SOLO . . . . . Rev. Lawrence Roberts

EULOGY . . . . . Rev. Lawrence Roberts  
First Baptist Church, Nullev, N.J.

RECESSIONAL — "Victory Is Mine"

ORGAN POSTLUDE



### Entombment

FAIRMOUNT MAUSOLEUM  
Newark, New Jersey

*Honorary Pallbearers*

TRUSTEES OF METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

*Pallbearers*

STAFF OF WHIGHAM FUNERAL HOME

*Flower Attendants*

USHERS

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY

THE FOUR SEASONS





## *About Ben Adhem*

ABOUT BEN ADHEM (may his tribe increase ! )  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,  
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,

An Angel writing in a book of gold:—  
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,  
And to the Presence in the room he said,  
"What writest thou?"—The Vision raised its head,  
And with a look made of all sweet accord

Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."  
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"  
Replied the Angel, Abou spoke more low,  
But cheerily still, and said, "I pray thee, then,  
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The Angel wrote and vanished. The next night  
It came again with a great wakening light,  
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,  
And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

Following the entombment, family and friends are invited to the dining hall of New Hope Baptist Church, 106 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.



### *Acknowledgement*

We the family of Charles L. Whigham gratefully acknowledge your kindness and sincere sympathy. Although our hearts are sadden, we realize that God has looked beyond our earthly desire and fulfilled His heavenly plan.

MAY GOD FOREVER BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU.

Sorrowfully Submitted,

*The Family*



